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CIA Director Warns Against International Terrorists' 'Wars'

The director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) warned against the growing dangers of international terrorism, calling it a "new face of war."

Terrorism, said William J. Casey, is "a low cost, low risk means of attacking democratic governments in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. It is used by radical states as an instrument of foreign policy, as a form of undeclared war, a war without borders."

Mr. Casey made his comments February 25 at the inaugural meeting of the 1986 Harry J. Sievers Memorial Lecture Series, held in the Fordham Law School's McNally Amphitheatre on the Lincoln Center campus. The series is sponsored by the University and The Center For The Study Of The Presidency.

Mr. Casey said international terrorist groups are making determined efforts to undermine moderate states and governments throughout the world.

"One of the most difficult tasks of intelligence," said Mr. Casey, "is to penetrate these fanatical groups, who have become more lethal and more widespread than they have ever been."

Mr. Casey, a 1934 graduate of Fordham College, spoke on "Intelligence and the American Response to Terrorism."

Comparing the intelligence-gathering efforts of western democracies and Soviet and Marxist-Leninist states, Mr. Casey characterized the communist nations as "merchants of disorder, provocateurs, who seek to cause upheaval. They suppress dissent and dissenters."

American intelligence, Mr. Casey argued, is "designed to protect not only our nation but to enhance the stability and security of all democratic nations. This responsibility will increase in each passing year."

Mr. Casey said that despite increases in defense spending in recent years, the United States still lags behind the Soviet Union in the military and strategic arms race. But he added that a huge Soviet force is unlikely to ever be used against US forces.

"The larger threat may lie elsewhere," Mr. Casey explained. "By intimidating weaker governments and gobbling up strategic pieces of territory around the world, the Soviets have established beachheads throughout the third world, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Ethiopia. Slowly, but surely, the Soviets are linking these territories in an expanding network."

He said that in Cuba, the Soviets have created "the second strongest military power in the Western Hemisphere" after the United States.

Mr. Casey said the Soviet Union's "proxy nations" are encouraged to engage in small, undeclared wars to destabilize democratic governments.

Mr. Casey said that despite the threat of communist subversion in many parts of the world, "In the last few years, democracy has taken hold in El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil, Pakistan and several other countries."